



Dari language

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This article is about the variety of Persian spoken in Afghanistan. For other uses, see [Dari \(disambiguation\)](#).

Dari (Dari: دری [da'ri:]) or **Dari Persian** (فارسی دری [fārsī ye dārī] or synonymously **Farsi** (فارسی Fārsī [fā:rsī:])) is a variation of the [Persian language](#) spoken in [Afghanistan](#).^{[9][10]} Dari is the term officially recognized and promoted since 1964 by the [Afghan government](#) for the Persian language,^{[11][9]} hence, it is also known as **Afghan Persian** in many Western sources.^{[2][12]} This has resulted in a naming dispute. Many Persian speakers in Afghanistan prefer and use the name "Farsi" and say the term Dari has been forced on them by the dominant [Pashtun ethnic group](#) as an attempt to distance Afghans from their cultural, linguistic, and historical ties to the Persian-speaking world, which includes [Iran](#) and [Tajikistan](#).^[13]

As defined in the [Constitution of Afghanistan](#), it is one of the two official languages of Afghanistan; the other is [Pashto](#).^[14] Dari is the most widely spoken language in Afghanistan and the [native language](#) of approximately 15–30%^{[2][3][4]} of the population, serving as the country's [lingua franca](#).^[4] The [Iranian](#) and [Afghan](#) types of Persian are mutually intelligible, with differences found primarily in the vocabulary and phonology.

By way of Early New Persian, Dari Persian, like [Iranian Persian](#) and [Tajik](#), is a continuation of [Middle Persian](#), the official religious and literary language of the [Sassanian Empire](#) (224–651 CE), itself a continuation of [Old Persian](#), the language of the [Achaemenids](#) (550–330 BC).^{[15][16]} In historical usage, *Dari* refers to the [Middle Persian](#) court language of the [Sassanids](#).^[17]

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Dari

Dari Persian, Afghan Persian

دری

Dari in Persian script
(Nasta'līq style)

Pronunciation

[da'ri:]

Native to

Afghanistan

Native speakers

12.5 million (2000–2011)^[1]
official, language of 50% of the Afghanistan population.^{[2][12][3][4]}

Language family

Indo-European

- Indo-Iranian
- Iranian
- Western Iranian
- Southwestern Iranian
- Persian
- **Dari**

Dialects

Kaboli, Mazari, Herati, Badakhshi, Panjshiri, Laghmani, Sistani, Aimaqi, Hazaragi^[5]

Writing system

Persian alphabet

Official status

Official language in

Afghanistan

Regulated by

Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan

Language codes

ISO 639-3

Variously:
`prs` – Dari, Afghan Persian

`aiq` – Aimaq
`haz` – Hazaragi

Glottolog

`dari1249` Dari^[6]
`aima1241` Aimaq^[7]
`haza1239` Hazaragi^[8]

Linguasphere

58-AAC-ce (Dari) + 58-AAC-cdo & cdp (Hazaragi) + 58-AAC-cck (Aimaq)

IETF

fa-AF

This article contains IPA phonetic symbols. Without proper rendering support, you may see question marks, boxes, or other symbols instead of Unicode characters. For a guide to IPA symbols, see Help:IPA.

Qandi Parsi or [Ghand e Parsi] (Rock candy of Parsi) is a metaphor for the Persian language and poetry.

- Original *bey Iqbal*: Hindi; Hindi in Devanagariscript = Urdu in Persian-Arabic-script
- عذب is an adjective of *uzūbat* or *ozubat* عنزوبت English: *bliss* or *delight, flavor* or *sweetness*; in language, literature and poetry *uzubat* means *euphonious, melody* or *phonaesthetics*.

This poem is a poetic statement of the poet Iqbal with respect to the poetry of the 14th century Persian poet [Hafez](#):

شکرشکن شوند همه طوطیان هند
Šakkar-šakan šavand hama tūtīyān-e Hend
 زین قند پارسی که به بنگاله می‌رود
zīn qand-e Pārsī ke ba Bangāla mē-ravad

English translation:

*All the parrots of India will crack sugar
 Through this Persian Candy which is going to Bengal*^{[29][30]}

Persian replaced the Central Asian languages of the Eastern Iranics.^[31] Ferghana, Samarkand, and Bukhara were starting to be linguistically Darified in originally Khorezmian and Soghdian areas during [Samanid](#) rule.^[32] Dari Persian spread around the Oxus River region, Afghanistan, and Khorasan after the Arab conquests and during Islamic-Arab rule.^{[33][34]} The replacement of the Pahlavi script with the Arabic script in order to write the Persian language was done by the Tahirids in 9th century Khorasan.^[35] The Dari Persian language spread and led to the extinction of Eastern Iranian languages like [Bactrian](#), [Khwarezmian](#) with only a tiny amount of [Sogdian](#) descended [Yaghnobi](#) speakers remaining among the now Persian-speaking Tajik population of Central Asia, due to the fact that the Arab-Islamic army which invaded Central Asia also included some Persians who governed the region like the [Sassanids](#).^[36] Persian was rooted into Central Asia by the Samanids.^[37] Persian phased out Sogdian.^[38] The role of lingua franca that Sogdian originally played was succeeded by Persian after the arrival of Islam.^[39]

Persian was a major language of government and diplomacy until the middle of the 1700s. Subsequently the strength of Persia declined relative to the industrializing states of Europe (many of whom pursued imperialist policies in the regions where Persian was spoken).

Table of the important terms of the Persian poets [\[edit\]](#)

This table gives information how many times the poets of the Persian literature wrote the terms Iran, Turan, Parsi, Farsi, Dari, Khorassan and Pahlevi. It is worth mentioning that many of Nazm (= verse) (نظم i Dari or *Dastan i Dari* (tale of Dari), Tarz e Guftar e Dari) style of Dari convers) have spoken. Nazm (verse form) and Nassir (نثر = novel, short story etc.) and درامه drama) - the three genres of literature. New Persian literature begins with Poems of Rudaki.

Counted according to sources from these Internet sites^{[40][41]}

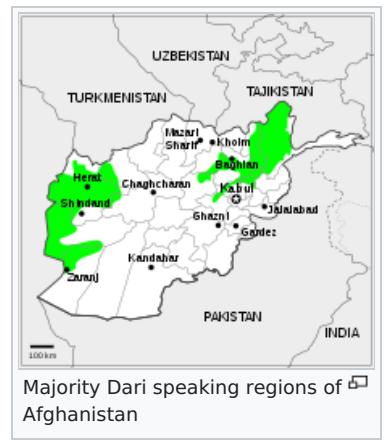
Name of Poet of Persian	century	Use of Iran	Use of Turan	Parsi (Persian)	Farsi (Arabised)	Dari (Court Language)	Greater Khorasan	Pahlavi Middle Persian
Rudaki	9th and 10th	1					6	
Farrukhi Sistani	9th 10th	16	1	15 Parsa'i			10	1
Abū-Sa'īd Abul-Khayr	10th	1					2	
Ferdowsi	10th and 11th	800 +	150 +	100+		2	25	29

Asadi Tusi	11th	51	5	1			1 loghat ye fors =		
Masud Sa'd Salman	11th	23	2	19			Nazm o Nassr Dari	13	
Manuchehri	11th	5	3	4					
Fakhruddin As'ad Gurgani	11th	15	10	12 Parsa'i	2		1	28	3
Nasir Khusraw	11 th	1	1	19			2	79	2
Mahsati	11th and 12th			1				1	
Anwari	12th	13	3	2			1	20	
Khaqani	12th	2	1	4	1		2 Nazm e Dari	40	180
Nizami Ganjavi	12 th	37	2	12			3 Nazm and Dastan	25	6
Amir Khusrow	13 th 14th	2	7	6				13	
Saadi Shirazi	13th	1	1	6+				7	
Rumi	13 th 14th	1	1	29				6	
Hafez	14th		6	9			2 Nazm ye Dari		
Ubayd Zakani	14th	1	1	4				1	
Muhtasham Kashani	16th	12	9	3				4	
Saib Tabrizi	17th	10	7	3				5	
Muhammad Iqbal	19th- Died 1938	19	4	3			1 Tarz e	1	
Parvin Etesami	19th/died 1941	2		Parsa'i					

Geographical distribution [edit]

Dari, which is sometimes called *Farsi* (Persian), is one of the two official languages of Afghanistan (the other being **Pashto**). In practice though, it serves as the de facto **lingua franca** among the various ethno-linguistic groups.

Dari is spoken natively by about twenty-five percent to about eighty percent [population of Afghanistan](#) as a primary language.^{[2][42][4][43][44]} **Tajiks**, who comprise approximately 27% of the [population](#), are the primary speakers, followed by **Hazaras** (9%) and **Aymāqs** (4%). Moreover, many **Pashtuns** living in Tajik and Hazara concentrated areas also use Dari as a first language. The [World Factbook](#) states that eighty percent of the Afghan population speaks the Dari language.^[2] About 2.5 million [Afghans in Iran](#) and [Afghans in Pakistan](#), part of the wider [Afghan diaspora](#), also speak Dari as one of their primary languages.^[45]



Dari dominates the northern, western and central areas of Afghanistan, and is the common language spoken in cities such as **Mazar-i-Sharif**, **Herat**, **Fayzabad**, **Panjshir**, **Bamiyan**, and the

Afghan capital of [Kabul](#) where all ethnic groups are settled. Dari-speaking communities also exist in southwestern and eastern Pashtun-dominated areas such as in the cities of [Ghazni](#), [Farah](#), [Zaranj](#), [Lashkar Gah](#), [Kandahar](#), and [Gardez](#).

Cultural influence [edit]

Dari has contributed to the majority of Persian borrowings in other Asian languages, such as [Urdu](#), [Hindi](#), [Punjabi](#), [Bengali](#), etc., as it was the administrative, official, cultural language of the [Persocentric Mughal Empire](#) and served as the [lingua franca](#) throughout the [South Asian subcontinent](#) for centuries. Often based in [Afghanistan](#), Turkic [Central Asian](#) conquerors brought the language into South Asia.^[46] The basis in general for the introduction of Persian language into the subcontinent was set, from its earliest days, by various Persianized Central Asian Turkic and Afghan dynasties.^[47] The sizable Persian component of the Anglo-Indian loan words in English and in [Urdu](#) therefore reflects the Dari pronunciation. For instance, the words [dopiaza](#) and [pyjama](#) come from the Dari pronunciation; in the Iranian Persian they are pronounced *do-piyāzeh* and *pey-jāmeh*. Persian lexemes and certain morphological elements (e.g., the *ezāfe*) have often been employed to coin words for political and cultural concepts, items, or ideas that were historically unknown outside the South Asian region, as is the case with the aforementioned "borrowings". The Dari language has a rich and colorful tradition of [proverbs](#) that deeply reflect Afghan culture and relationships, as demonstrated by U.S. Navy Captain [Edward Zellem](#) in his bilingual books on Afghan Dari proverbs collected in Afghanistan.^{[48][49]}

Differences between Iranian and Afghan Persian [edit]

There are phonological, lexical,^[50] and morphological^[24] differences between Afghan Persian and Iranian Persian. There are no significant differences in the written forms, other than regional idiomatic phrases.

Phonology [edit]

The principal differences between standard Iranian Persian, based on the dialect of the capital Tehran, and Afghan Persian, as based on the Kabul dialect, are:

1. The merging of *majhu* vowels /e:/, /i:/ and /o:/, /u:/ into /i:/ and /u:/ respectively in Iranian Persian, whereas in Afghan Persian, they are still kept separate. For instance, the identically written words شیر 'lion' and 'milk' are pronounced the same in Iranian Persian as /ʃi:r/, but /ʃe:r/ for 'lion' and /fi:r/ for 'milk' in Afghan Persian. The long vowel in زود "quick" and زور "strong" is realized as /u:/ in Iranian Persian, in contrast, these words are pronounced /zu:d/ and /zo:r/ respectively by Persian speakers in Afghanistan.
2. The treatment of the [diphthongs](#) of early Classical Persian "aw" (as "ow" in Engl. "cow") and "ay" (as "i" in English "ice"), which are pronounced [ow] (as in Engl. "low") and [ej] (as in English "day") in Iranian Persian. Dari, on the other hand, is more archaic, e.g. نوروز 'Persian New Year' is realized as /nowru:z/ in Iranian and /nawro:z/ in Afghan Persian, and نهیر 'no' is /naxejr/ in Iranian and /naxajr/ in Afghan Persian. Moreover, [ow] is simplified to [o] in normal Iranian speech, thereby merging with the short vowel/u/ (see below). This does not occur in Afghan Persian.
3. The high short vowels /i/ and /u/ tend to be lowered in Iranian Persian to [e] and [o], as they are in Dari.
4. The pronunciation of the labial consonant (g), which is realized as a [voiced labiodental fricative](#) [v], but Afghan Persian still retains the (classical) bilabial pronunciation[w]; [v] is found in Afghan Persian as an allophone of /f/ before voiced consonants and as variation of /b/ in some cases, along with [β].
5. The convergence of [voiced uvular stop](#) [q] (ق) and [voiced velar fricative](#) [χ] (غ) in Iranian Persian (presumably under the influence of Turkic languages like [Azeri](#) and [Turkmen](#)),^[51] is still kept separate in Dari.
6. The realization of short final "a" (ə-) as [e] in Iranian Persian.
7. The realization of short non-final "a" as [æ] in Iranian Persian.
8. [a] and [e] in word-final positions are separate in Dari, [e] is a word-final allophone of /æ/ in Iranian Persian.

Dialect continuum [edit]

The dialects of Dari spoken in Northern, Central and Eastern Afghanistan, for example in [Kabul](#), [Mazar](#), and [Badakhshan](#), have distinct features compared to [Iranian Persian](#). However, the dialect of Dari spoken in Western Afghanistan stands in between the Afghan and Iranian Persian. For instance, the [Herati](#) dialect shares vocabulary and phonology with both Dari and Iranian Persian. Likewise, the dialect of Persian in Eastern Iran, for instance in [Mashhad](#), is quite similar to the Herati dialect of Afghanistan.

The Kabuli dialect has become the standard model of Dari in Afghanistan, as has the [Tehrani dialect](#) in relation to the Persian in Iran. Since the 1940s, [Radio Afghanistan](#) has broadcast its Dari programs in Kabuli Dari, which ensured the homogenization between the Kabuli version of the language and other dialects of Dari spoken throughout Afghanistan. Since 2003, the media, especially the [private radio and television broadcasters](#), have carried out their Dari programs using the Kabuli variety.

Political views on the language [edit]



This section **appears to contradict the article Pashto**.

Please see discussion on the linked [talk page](#). (May 2017) ([Learn how and when to remove this template message](#))

Successive governments of Afghanistan have promoted New Persian as an [official language](#) of government since the time of the [Delhi Sultanate](#) (1206–1526), even as those governments were dominated by Pashtun people. [Sher Ali Khan](#) of the [Barakzai dynasty](#) (1826–1973) first introduced the [Pashto language](#) as an additional language of administration. The local name for the Persian variety spoken in Afghanistan was officially changed from Farsi to Dari, meaning "court language", in 1964.^{[52][53]} Within their respective linguistic boundaries, Dari and Pashto are the media of education.

See also [edit]

- Middle Persian
- Persian language
- Samanids
- Tajik language
- Hazaragi dialect



[Afghanistan portal](#)

[Languages portal](#)

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External links [edit]

- Dari at [Encyclopædia Britannica](#)
- Dari at [Encyclopædia Iranica](#)
- Dari language, alphabet and pronunciation
- Dari language resources
- Dari alphabet
- Learn Dari

Languages of Afghanistan	
Official languages	Dari · Pashto
Regional languages	Balochi · Kyrgyz · Nuristani · Pashayi · Tajiki · Turkmen · Uzbek
Minority languages	Ashkunu · Brahui · Kamkata-vari · Khowar · Kyrgyz · Pamiri (Ishkashimi · Munji · Shughni · Yidgha) · Tregami · Waigali · Wakhi · Vasi-vari
Sign languages	Afghan Sign Language

Languages of Pakistan													
Official languages	Urdu · English												
Other languages (by administrative unit)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Azad Kashmir</td><td>Dogri · Gujarati · Kashmiri · Kundal Shahi · Pahari-Pothwari</td></tr> <tr> <td>Balochistan</td><td>Balochi · Brahui · Dehwari · Hazaragi · Jagdali · Khetrani · Pashto · Wanetsi</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gilgit-Baltistan</td><td>Balti · Purgi · Burushaski · Domaaki · Khowar · Munji · Shina · Wakhi</td></tr> <tr> <td>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</td><td>Burushaski · Badeshi · Bateri · Chilisso · Dameli · Gawar-Bati · Gowro · Hindko · Indus Kohistani · Kalami · Kalasha-mun · Kalkoti · Kamviri · Khowar · Mankiyali · Ormuri · Palula · Pashto · Torwali · Ushoji · Wazir · Yidgha</td></tr> <tr> <td>Punjab</td><td>Bagri · Dogri · Pahari-Pothwari · Punjabi (dialects) · Saraiki · Rajasthani</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sindh</td><td>Aer · Bagri · Bhaya · Dhatki · Goaria · Gujarati · Jandavra · Jogi · Koli (Parkari) · Kutchi · Loarki · Marwari · Memoni · Mewari · Od · Rajasthani · Sindhi · Vaghri</td></tr> </table>	Azad Kashmir	Dogri · Gujarati · Kashmiri · Kundal Shahi · Pahari-Pothwari	Balochistan	Balochi · Brahui · Dehwari · Hazaragi · Jagdali · Khetrani · Pashto · Wanetsi	Gilgit-Baltistan	Balti · Purgi · Burushaski · Domaaki · Khowar · Munji · Shina · Wakhi	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Burushaski · Badeshi · Bateri · Chilisso · Dameli · Gawar-Bati · Gowro · Hindko · Indus Kohistani · Kalami · Kalasha-mun · Kalkoti · Kamviri · Khowar · Mankiyali · Ormuri · Palula · Pashto · Torwali · Ushoji · Wazir · Yidgha	Punjab	Bagri · Dogri · Pahari-Pothwari · Punjabi (dialects) · Saraiki · Rajasthani	Sindh	Aer · Bagri · Bhaya · Dhatki · Goaria · Gujarati · Jandavra · Jogi · Koli (Parkari) · Kutchi · Loarki · Marwari · Memoni · Mewari · Od · Rajasthani · Sindhi · Vaghri
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Related topics	Indo-Aryan languages · Dardic languages · Iranic languages · Pakistani Sign Language · Arabic · Persian · Persian and Urdu · Chagatai												

Persian language	
History	Old Persian · Middle Persian · Modern Persian
Dialects	Western (<i>Iranian</i>) · Dari (<i>Afghanistan</i>) · Tajik · Hazaragi · Aimaq · Kuwaiti Persian · Tat · Judeo-Persian (<i>Dzhidi</i>) · Judeo-Tat (<i>Juhuri</i>) · Judeo-Tajik (<i>Bukhor</i>) · Sistani
Language features	Vocabulary (Nouns · Verbs) · Phonology
Grammar	Persian grammar · Tajik grammar
Writing system	Old Persian cuneiform · Pahlavi scripts · Persian alphabet (Persian calligraphy) · Tajik alphabet · Romanized Persian alphabet (Finglish) · Persian Braille
Literature	Persian literature · Middle Persian literature · Tajik literature
Other topics	List of English words of Persian origin · List of French loanwords in Persian · Persian language in South Asia

Iranian languages			
Old	Eastern	Avestan · Old Scythian	
	Western	Median · Old Persian	
Middle	Eastern	Bactrian · Khwarezmian · Ossetic (<i>Jassic</i>) · Saka · Scythian · Sogdian	
	Western	Middle Persian · Parthian	
Modern	Eastern	Pamir	Ishkashimi · Sanglechi · Wakhi · Munji · Yidgha · Vanji · Yazghulami · Shughni · Roshani · Khufi · Bartangi · Sarikoli
		Others	Ossetian (Digor · Iron) · Pashto (Central · Northern · Southern · Wanetsi) · Yaghnobi · Ormuri · Parachi
	North	Old Azari · Balochi · Central Iran · Zoroastrian Dari · Fars · Gilaki · Gorani · Kurdis (Sorani · Kurmanji · Southern group) ·	

Western

South

Laki • Mazandarani • Semnani • Taleshi • Deilami • Tati •

Zazaki

Persian (Caucasian Tat • Dari • Hazaragi • Tajik) • Luri (Feyli •

Bakhtiari • Kumzari) • Larestani • Bashkardi

*Italics indicate extinct languages.***Authority control**

NDL: 00561272

Eastern Persian dialects in
Categories: AfghanistanLanguages of
IranPersian language in
Pakistan

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